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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Ever faithful and Almighty God, be with the people of London as again they surround victims of terrorist attacks and their families.

We in America call upon You, the God of all consolation, so that we in turn may offer consolation to all those who grieve and are thrown into a pool of confusion and fear.

You alone, Lord, can touch the conscience of the terrorist and the "would-be" terrorist. Enlighten their minds to see the blazing evil of self-destruction and change their hearts, that they may know within themselves the contradictions against Your law of life and love.

May the tensions of our times and the common vulnerability felt by so many become the occasion for people all over the world to unite in a solidarity that renews human hearts and justice, peace, and compassion.

In recent days, Members of Congress have been writing expressions of sympathy and promises of prayer in a commemorative book to be sent to London. Today, Lord, we are moved beyond words and offer saddened hearts to You as prayerful sacrifice for our brothers and sisters.

Be with us and be with them, that we may respond rightly now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CONAWAY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to ten 1-minutes on each side.

DEMOCRATS SHOULD CARE MORE ABOUT POLICY THAN POLITICS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, let me read my colleagues something that a Member of this Chamber told the press recently. She said, "It is essential for us to take down their numbers; to take down their numbers on Social Security; and to take down their numbers on credibility. If you're the contender, if you're the challenger, you are not going to go up against the leader at full strength. You have to take them down first and then you have to move out in a positive way. I feel very confident about the fact that we've taken down their brand."

I do not know about my colleagues, but in challenging times like these, I want leaders who care more about ideas and progress than partisan party politics and spin and negative attacks.

DELTA AIRLINES' TROUBLES REMINDS US OF NEED TO PRESERVE SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Today's Wall Street Journal reports that Delta Airlines executives

have warned that the airline's current turnaround plan may be futile and that avoiding chapter 11 will soon be impossible.

In other words, we may soon add Delta to the list of bankrupt airlines and Delta's employees to the list of those whose pension plans are now going to be bailed out by the taxpayers at PBGC.

That should serve as a stark reminder of what is at stake in this debate about the future of Social Security.

Delta Airlines' news is yet another example of America's retirement insecurity. Now we should go ask those Delta employees what they think of Social Security.

For airline employees, steel industry employees, and probably the future of auto industry employees, Social Security is the linchpin to their retirement.

It may come as a shock to some in this Chamber, but the American people like the security that comes with Social Security. They reject the idea of doing to Social Security what is now happening to their private retirement plans. And, most of all, they reject the privatization of one of the most successful programs in the Nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, this debate is about more than the solvency of Social Security; it is about the financial security of every American.

CAFTA: AN IMPORTANT TOOL IN THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, passing the Central American Free Trade Agreement will not necessitate any changes in U.S. immigration law or U.S. visa policy. Congressional power

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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